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12 from the plasma chamber to the substrate in the deposition chamber, wherein
13 the ions impact with an energy which promotes formation of sp³ carbon-carbon
14 bonds.

1 46. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 45,
2 further comprising:
3 densifying the plasma in the plasma chamber by directing a
4 magnetic field into the plasma chamber.

1 47. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 46,
2 further comprising rotating the magnetic field laterally through the plasma
3 chamber.

1 48. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 45,
2 wherein the source material comprises acetylene.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-16, and 39-48 are pending. All claims were previously rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,462,784, issued to Grill et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,374,318, issued to Rabalais et al. To expedite prosecution and more clearly claim the present invention, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of previous claim 38. Claim 38 has been cancelled, and claim 39 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Reexamination and reconsideration of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown in a telephone interview conducted on July 1, 1998. Applicants discussed the invention and the claim language of independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 13 with reference to the Rabalais et al. reference. Agreement was reached on allowable claim language for independent claim 1, and the Examiner agreed to review the remaining independent claims in light of the discussions during the Examiner Interview.

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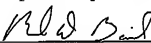
The Conclusion

Applicants note that independent claim 8 recites a magnetic recording media production method in which a solid carbon cathode is heated sufficiently to produce an arc that is distributed over the cathode, as described on page 29, lines 9-28 of the originally filed specification for this case. Independent claim 12 recites a recording media production method in which ions are energized to form a quasi-neutral stream by applying an alternating potential between a coupling electrode and an extraction grid, as described on page 16, line 10 through page 17, line 18. Independent claim 13 recites media production methods that include ionizing a gas having a substantially coherent dissociation energy spectra, as described on page 18, line 19 through page 19, line 16. Independent claim 45 recites media production methods combining inductive ionization of a source material with capacitive energization of the ions, as described on page 20, line 31 through page 22, line 5. A fuller understanding of each of these recited elements can be obtained by a review of the entire specification and drawings of the application as originally filed for this case.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments to the claims, the application is in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at (650) 326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark D. Barrish
Reg. No. 36,443

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
(650) 326-2400 / Fax (650) 326-2422
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